

**First Negro Sent To
Liberia As Y. M. C. A.
International Worker**

Black Dispatch
ATLANTA — (ANP) — David N. Howell, associate executive of the Southern Area council of Y. W. C. A.'s was recently assigned with the International Committee of the YMCA as the first field worker to be sent to Africa's west coast. Howell will leave the country for Liberia on or about Sept. 10 to take over his duties.

Purpose of the assignment, the work of which is strictly pioneering, is to develop indigenous leadership to carry on 'Y' work throughout Liberia. Headquarters of the project will be located at Monrovia.

Howell, educated in Detroit, is a graduate of George Williams college and the University of Chicago; and has done additional work at Denver university. He entered 'Y' work 19 years ago and has served in various capacities in units at Detroit, Chicago, Dallas, Denver and Knoxville. He came to the council staff five years ago. He is married and has two children.

ROBINSON ON STAFF OF HARLEM 'Y' GYM

N.Y. Times
With Campanella. Next Winter,

He'll Train Boys at New

Set-Up to End Gangs

A newly equipped and decorated gymnasium, swimming pool, game room, social hall and clubrooms soon will be ready for the staff of the Harlem Y. M. C. A. to offer as "bait" in a pleasant "trap" for the thousands of teen-age boys.

The "trap" is intended to save the youths of the Harlem slums from becoming purse-snatchers and muggers and, incidentally, provide them with a lot of fun.

What's more, those two Harlem heroes, Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella, Dodger stars, have been retained as full-time gym instructors and boys' work leaders by the Harlem "Y" from next November through February. In

addition to their work in the "Y", the two baseball heroes will address school assemblies in the community, frequently in a frank campaign at recruiting youth members, Mr. Thomas said.

Since last October workmen have been reconditioning the six-story structure at 181 West 135th Street, the older of the two "Y" buildings in that street, both inside and out. When it is reopened to the public the last week in July, the basement, main and second floors will be available exclusively for youth activities.

Capacity to Be Doubled

The renovations and new equipment will enable 5,000 boys and 1,000 girls between the ages of 8 and 18 to use the "Y", which is double the previous capacity, Rudolph J. Thomas, executive director of the branch, estimated yesterday.

Mr. Thomas is busy these days working out plans for "co-ed" swimming parties twice a week, dances and supper parties, for which a kitchen is being installed. The gymnasium not only has been equipped with new apparatus, but also will have a portable stage and folding theatre seats, so drama groups can mount their productions. A modern movie projector for showing educational and documentary films in the gym also has been purchased.

The game rooms will have billiard and ping pong tables, and plenty of arts and crafts tools and

material.

"What we are particularly eager to do," Mr. Thomas said, "is to bring in these so-called 'street gangs' and show them what a good time they and their girl friends can have in our new youth center, without breaking any laws. We already have won over about six of these gangs, but we want to get many more."

\$66,000 Donated

The renovation program is costing \$275,000, of which \$66,000 has been contributed by Harlem residents. The rest has been advanced on loans that the Y. M. C. A. hopes to pay off by popular subscription. Until last fall, the facilities of the older building at 181 West 135th Street were shared by boys and men members. The newer building across the street at 180 was, and will continue to be, used exclusively for adult activities.

Hereafter, the three lower floors of the renovated building will be reserved for youth work only. The upper floors will be residence dormitories for men, as formerly.

In addition to providing a "light-house" for the youth of the area, Mr. Thomas pointed out, the renovation also will brighten up a shabby street.

Y.M.C.A. LEADERS PRAISED

Rockefeller, in Harlem, Says Progress Is Up to Individual

Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella, Brooklyn Dodgers baseball stars, were among 230 persons present last night at the ninth annual dinner of the Century Club of the Harlem Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, 180 West 135th Street.

The dinner was a preliminary get-together of friends who assume a large measure of responsibility for the organization's fund-raising activities. This year's drive, for \$25,000, is to be formally opened on Dec. 6.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., principal speaker at the dinner, extolling the careers of Robinson, Campanella, Samuel J. Battle, now a Parole Commissioner of New York, who was toastmaster, and other Negro and white leaders in Y. M. C. A. work, said that "more than anything else, progress depends upon the basic worth and character of individuals, their courage, self-reliance, and faith, their initiative and self-sacrifice, their sense of the public welfare."

Henry G. Hotchkiss, president of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, was another speaker. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller were among the guests.

Fisk Prexy to Teach at YMCA Conference

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DALLAS, Tex.—In an effort to implement the National Council YMCA's program of intercultural and interracial advance, Dr. Charles S. Johnson, president of Fisk University, and the Rev. C. K. Stalnaker, pastor, First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., will participate in the Estes Park YMCA Summer Conference July 24-29.

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Dr. Johnson will teach a week's seminar course in "Skills and Methods for Improving Human Relations," and the Rev. Mr. Stalnaker, recent lecturer at Southern Methodist University, and delegate to World Council of Churches, will deliver the opening conference sermon July 24.



Charles S. Johnson - 3-49
ESTES COURSE—The above scene shows a class of white and colored YMCA secretaries in a course on "Skills and Methods in Dealing With Human Relations" at the Estes Park YMCA summer conference. Dr. Charles S. Johnson, president of Fisk University, who served as instructor of the class,

Agility used **New YMCA Represents Faith In Future, Abe Scharff Says**

Using two large architectural drawings to point out the main features of the new Lauderdale Branch YMCA, Abe Scharff, well known philanthropist and business executive last Wednesday night addressed directors and members of the Women's Auxiliary during the Annual Fellowship Supper at the YMCA Building. The impressive supper meeting was presided over by M. W. Bonner.

"This gathering tonight is largely a faith meeting," Mr. Scharff told his audience. "Faith is the aim and objective of one of the finest organizations of work designed to promote and to encourage faith in all human beings . . . faith in the power of a Supreme Being whose good works permit others to have faith in their fellowman. And you are here also to renew a faith . . . a revival, as it were . . . a renewal and acknowledgment of a faith in a work that began here in Memphis among the colored people of this community in 1852 . . . the Negro YMCA."

It was through the generosity of Mr. Scharff that the present quarters of the YMC were made possible. He gave the building to the Negro Branch as an outright gift, making it possible for the directors to move out of their inadequate building at 816 Mississippi Avenue. But Mr. Scharff warned his listeners that they should not be satisfied with the present building and of post-war expansion. This is the reason the big fund raising campaign has been put on to provide:

- (1) . . . a new dormitory space to offer the best of hotel facilities for transients. (2) . . . an enlarged boys game room (3) . . . a swimming pool (4) a modern gymnasium which can be used also as an auditorium . . . increased kitchen facilities (4) improvements on the yards to give the YMCA a most attractive appearance

Chairman Bonner and C. R. Lawrence Sr., executive director of the Lauderdale Branch, responded to Mr. Scharff's address. They expressed thanks for his appearance and gave assurance that renewed effort

is shown third from left on the first row. Matthew G. Carter, associate secretary, Southwest Area Council YMCA, who served as chairman of the conference program committee, is shown fourth from the right in the second row.

would be put forth to collect for his black pledges in order that this new and expanded YMCA would be made a reality.

Annual reports were made by several directors, including James G. King, for the Youth Department; B. T. Hunt, finance committee; E. P. Nabors, building committee; J. T. Chandler, Sr., Music department; Dr. Cooper Taylor, religious committee; Prof. E. L. Washburn, educational department and Mrs. Marie Adams, on behalf of the Woman's Auxiliary of which Mrs. Martha Kirk is chairman.

Staff members served a four-course supper which consisted of pineapple juice, roast turkey and giblets with cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, Spinach and eggs; cocoa-nut and mince meat pie; nuts and candy, tea and coffee.